

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 3, 7, 14, 18, 22-23, 27, 30, and 32-33 are cancelled. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-13, 15-17, 19-21, 24-26, 28-29, and 31 remain in this application and, as amended herein, are submitted for Examiner's reconsideration.

Applicants express appreciation to the Examiner for the telephone interview held on December 4, 2000 in which the Examiner discussed the reasoning of arguments presented in the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action. The present Amendment includes a response thereto.

Claims 2, 4-6, 8-11, 13, 15-17, 19-20, 22, 24, and 28-29 have been amended solely to have the claims better conform to the requirements of U.S. practice. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

In the Office Action, claims 1-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maruyama (English-language translation of JP 11-187013). Claims 3, 7, 14, 18, 23, 27 and 30 are cancelled. Applicants submit that the remaining claims are patentably distinguishable over Maruyama.

Claim 1, for example, recites:

message data distributing means for distributing a storage medium storing first message data that includes data in which first content is encrypted with a content key, data in which the content key is encrypted by a content key encryption key, and a link to a location on the storage medium wherein data is stored in which the content key encryption key is encrypted by the enabling key block (EKB), and storing second message data that includes another link to the location on the storage medium wherein the data is stored in which the content key encryption key is encrypted by the enabling key block (EKB). (Emphasis added.)

The sections of Maruyama that the Examiner relies on do not disclose or suggest first message data that includes a link to a

location on the storage medium wherein data is stored in which a content key encryption key is encrypted by an enabling key block and do not disclose or suggest second message data that includes another link to the same location on the storage medium.

It is therefore submitted that the relied-on sections of Maruyama do not disclose or suggest the combination set out in claim 1, and therefore claim 1 is not anticipated by Maruyama.

Claims 12, 21, 25, 26, and 31 each include limitations similar to those described above regarding claim 1 and are therefore each distinguishable over Maruyama for at least the same reasons.

Claims 2 and 4-11 depend from claim 1, claims 13 and 15-20 depend from claim 12, claims 23-24 depend from claim 21, and claims 28-30 depend from claim 26. It is therefore submitted that each of claims 2, 4-11, 13, 15-20, 22-24, and 28-30 is distinguishable over Maruyama for at least the same reasons.

Claim 22 is cancelled.

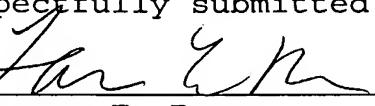
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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